

Computer Science Final Year Project

Feedback on the DPP

JAM 2006-7, revised for 07-08 and again for 09-10;

Feedback on the DPP

- Popular topics
- Distinguish your attributes from those of project or system being built
- Planning

Process of marking and feedback

Everybody who submitted on time will get the 1 mark

System truncated some text, sorry

Tutors should have discussed your ideas as you explained them in weekly meetings

I have annotated (most) DPPs and given a grade (A ... D)

Popular topics

2009-10 these were:

Project suggestion system

Media player

System for scoring cricket matches

The most popular titles in previous years were:

Job recruitment system 23 DPPs

Shopping Centre Information System 10 DPPs

Authoring Tool for Mobile Phones or PDAs

Airline Flight Information System 5 DPPs

Sound Studio/Player 7 DPPs

Booking system for a theatre/cinema

DVD/Video rental system

numerous systems for small businesses

system for scoring cricket matches 8 DPPs

Trivia

Spelling mistakes

Take care over capitalisation, punctuation: always have a space after a comma, two after a full stop.

Try proof-reading your work before submission

Distinguish your attributes from those of project or system being built

More generally, all the items in a list should be the same type

A plan will include learn Java, Christmas holiday, write IPR

but a set of *objectives* probably not

One way of distinguishing functional and non-functional requirements...

The system will be able to:

- add stock records

- delete stock records

- modify stock records

The system will be:

- easy to use

- efficient

- secure

Corresponding objectives might be:

produce a web page to modify stock records

implement code to add and delete stock records

use a heuristic evaluation technique to evaluate the system's ease of use

investigate sorting algorithms and implement a suitable one to match customers to suppliers efficiently

implement user accounts and a login facility

[By the end of November I am going to ...]

Planning

Many plans were weak

too few objectives: four would be a minimum

missing evidence

including the DPP, IPR and final report as objectives

lack of ambition: no objectives indicating that anything beyond a very modest system is envisaged

including data entry/content creation as part of the project

putting off practical work for too long

scheduling testing after the system is completed

making excuses for not having done enough work to prepare an adequate proposal

objectives like "keep working on the software project and report"
followed by "start to finish the software project and report"

Estimating is hard, but counting is easy

Divide up tasks until you think each could be done in a week

then count them

Value: you will soon know if you are behind schedule

What will you do then?

vagueness: it is fairly clear that the project has not been carefully thought out

lack of clarity: it is not clear what is intended

Other reminders

If you need ethics approval for part of your work, don't forget to apply!!

Some examples:

objective1: Design the database

target1: mid November

objective2: Implement and test the database

target2: end November

objective3: Implement a web front end to the database with ASP.

target3: end December

OK as far as it goes, just rather thin

objective1: Research

target1: end October

objective2: Analyse Requirements & Design database

target2: mid November

objective3: Implement a fully normalised database for the Job Recruitment System.

target3: mid December

objective4: Design Interfaces for Job Seeker & Job recruiter

target4: end January

Objective 1 is much too vague

Objective 2 is not very challenging for 6 weeks work; how will we know you have done it -- what will you put in your IPR?

And now a shopping centre system

objective1: Do more depth research into my chosen Project

target1: end October

objective2: Investigate current methods being used by shopping centres

target2: end October

objective3: Research into software and database programs able to aid me in my project

target3: end October

objective4: Produce design ideas for the user interface of the system

target4: mid November

objective5: Produce design and entity ideas for the database system

target5: end November

objective6: Prepare and write Interim Report documenting current status of my project

target6: mid December

objective7: Develop final system specification

target7: mid December

objective8: DEVELOP THE SYSTEM using all research and design ideas acquired

target8: end December

objective9: Test system all thorough out its development stages

target9: mid April

Another system

objective1: Learn about databases and SQL

target1: end October

objective2: Choose the database system

target2: end October

objective3: Create and implement the database

target3: mid November

objective4: Implement a web front end to the database

target4: mid November

objective5: Improve my project to a first class standard

target5: mid March

"with one bound he was free"